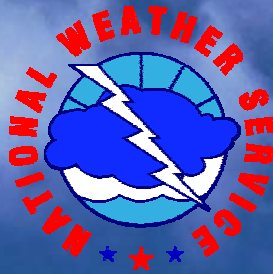


2006 Severe Weather Awareness Creative Writing Contest

Sponsored By:



*Radio Shack
in
Clinton, MS*



***Open to all students in 6th-8th grade.**

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER:

- You must choose one of the categories from the attached list of safety rules for flooding, lightning, and tornadoes.
- Then, type, or neatly write, an original one to two page story incorporating all safety rules from the category you picked into the story.
- Originality and creativity will be the primary factors judged.
- All stories must be received at the National Weather Service office in Jackson, MS by Sunday March 26, 2006.
- Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place and will be awarded by mid April.
- Please include your name, grade, and school with your story so we may contact you if you have won.

You may submit your story by email: sr-jan.webmaster@noaa.gov
Or by mail: Writing Contest, c/o WFO Jackson, MS
234 Weather Service Drive
Jackson, MS 39232

Severe Weather Safety Rules

Flood Safety Rules:

- Get out of areas subject to flooding and avoid walking, swimming, or diving in flood waters.
- Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, or culverts.
- Never drive through flooded roadways! If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around and go the other way.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may overtake you and your vehicle. Only two feet of water can easily sweep away an automobile.

Lightning Safety Rules:

- Move to a sturdy building or non-convertible automobile. Do not take shelter in small sheds or under isolated trees. When in automobiles, be sure to keep the windows up.
- Avoid touching metal.
- Stay away from tall objects such as towers, fences, telephone poles, and power lines.
- Unplug appliances that are not needed for obtaining weather information. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances, unless in an emergency.
- Do not take a bath or a shower during a thunderstorm.
- Get out of boats and away from the water.

Tornado Safety Rules:

- In homes, get into a basement. If no basement is available, go to the lowest floor and put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. In most cases, this would mean getting into a hallway or a small interior room, such as a closet.
- In office buildings, move to a pre-designated shelter. This could be a basement. If no basement is available, go to the lowest floor and put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. In most cases, this would mean getting into a hallway or a small interior room.
- Protect your head and body by using pillows, blankets, cushions, or by getting under a piece of sturdy furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle! If caught in a vehicle with no sturdy shelter nearby, leave the vehicle and seek shelter by lying flat in a ditch or depression. Be sure to cover your head with your hands.
- Leave mobile homes and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If no such building is available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression, protecting your head with your hands.